



**Executive Board of the
United Nations Development
Programme, the United Nations
Population Fund and the United
Nations Office for Project Services**

Distr.: General
5 April 2012

Original: English

Annual session 2012

25 to 29 June 2012, Geneva

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Extensions of country programmes in the Arab States region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the second one-year extensions of the UNFPA country programmes for the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

In accordance with established procedures, requests for second one-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the second one-year country programme extensions for the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, as indicated in table 1.



Table 1. Second one-year country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Syrian Arab Republic	2007-2011 (in addition, one-year extension through 2012)	2013	UNDP and UNFPA in the Syrian Arab Republic will seek to extend their respective country programmes for a second year, pending the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which has been postponed. This will: (a) permit an adequate assessment of the impact of the crisis and an analysis of population and development needs in the light of the ongoing situation; and (b) enable better preparation of the next country programme, which will be aligned with the new UNDAF. UNFPA will continue to provide vital assistance to the violence-affected areas, in coordination with other United Nations organizations.	For over a year, the country has been facing a wave of unrest. The United Nations system in the Syrian Arab Republic is supporting the United Nations Special Envoy to Syria and his team, as well as the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator. The United Nations country team has developed a 90-day emergency response plan and has conducted a needs assessment mission. There is an increase in cross-border migration into neighbouring countries.	The United Nations country team will focus on securing access for and continuing service delivery to affected populations. The extension of the UNFPA country programme will: (a) integrate issues regarding reproductive health and rights, youth, and gender-based violence into emergency preparedness, humanitarian response and recovery plans, while strengthening monitoring to better assess the impact of the crisis on reproductive health services delivery and on programme indicators; (b) expand partnerships with youth, women's organizations and community-based organizations to improve the access of populations affected by violence to reproductive health and gender-based violence services, including psychosocial support and psychological first aid; and (c) continue to review achievements under the development component of the programme and to build on these, where possible.

Table 1. (continued)

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Tunisia	2007-2011 (in addition, one-year extension through 2012)	2013	Following the 2011 political developments in Tunisia, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF obtained one-year extensions of their respective country programmes, through 2012. The United Nations country team prepared and finalized a transition strategy, in consultation with the interim national authorities. With the agreement of the national authorities, the country team decided to delay the development of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) until the new government has established a roadmap. UNFPA, along with UNDP and UNICEF, is therefore seeking a second one-year extension of its country programme to enhance alignment and coherence of its programme to the evolving priorities in Tunisia.	The political and democratic environment in Tunisia is evolving. The democratic process led to the emergence of new actors, particularly from civil society organizations, in the political, economic and social arenas. The constitutional assembly, elected in October 2011, is in the process of writing a new constitution. A new Government was appointed in December 2011, which is establishing national priorities and programmes. The United Nations expects that new priorities will emerge, within which the United Nations reposition itself for greater relevance and impact in the country.	The one-year extension of the programme will seek to: (a) ensure increased access to reproductive health services, particularly for the most vulnerable groups; and (b) improve the alignment of the next programme to national priorities. In order to do so, the programme will: (a) advocate to sustain the gains in reproductive health rights, (b) strengthen the capacity of different actors to better plan, reduce disparities and promote equity; (c) provide a platform for debates on health system reform to better position sexual and reproductive health and maternal health in such reforms; (d) generate new knowledge through surveys and studies; and (e) design a new UNFPA country programme for 2014-2017.

